

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM by the Chairman, Mr. Carpender, and the following members were present:

Mr. Richard Carpender, Chair	Mrs. Marge Levesque, Clerk	Ms. Marilyn King
Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Vice Chair	Mr. Michael Buddemeyer	Ms. Angela Volpicelli

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Asst. Supt. Jermain, Christine Tague, Patti Cofield

Absent: Amy Larsen (High School Liaison)

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation. So voted 6-0.

Public Session recessed at 7:27 PM and resumed at 7:37 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Carpender stated that an Executive Session was held prior to this meeting to discuss job performance/personnel and collective bargaining/litigation matters. One motion made by Ms. Wedge on a personnel issue. It was seconded by Mrs. King and approved 6-0. A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to seal the minutes of the Executive Session. So voted 6-0. Mr. Carpender stated that he received three pieces of correspondence. One was an application for membership from the National School Board Association, and the cost to join is \$4,250. He asked if any of the Committee members wanted it on the next agenda, but no one was interested. He also received a letter from Representative Ryan Newberry of District 48 with a copy of a resolution to eliminate straight party votes. Mr. Carpender stated that he personally doesn't think the School Committee should be involved, but if the Committee wanted it on the next agenda for discussion, he would add it. The Committee declined. The last piece of correspondence was a letter from the Portsmouth High School Post Prom Committee requesting donations to their June 17<sup>th</sup> party. The request will be put on the next agenda.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi congratulated the Newport County Robotics team for placing third at the National Robotics Championships in Atlanta, Georgia, over spring break. Portsmouth High School members are Laura Thurston, Liz Williamson, Kyle Kossak, Mike Dunn, and Jamie Ryan. Dr. Lusi commended the Portsmouth Middle School staff and administration for hosting a very successful lab classroom visit of a team of teachers from Riverside Middle School in East Providence. She also congratulated the Boys' Varsity Basketball team for receiving the Edward Jusczyk Memorial Sportsmanship Award from the Rhode Island Basketball Officials Association. The Patriots were selected in recognition of their outstanding sportsmanship during the 2008-09 season. They also received the Providence Journal Dick Reynolds Sportsmanship Award for the 2008-09 Winter Sports Season. The Reynolds Awards, which are named in honor of the late Providence

Journal sportswriter, Dick Reynolds, and sponsored by The Journal and the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Injury Fund, are presented to only one boys and girls team in each of the three high school sports seasons. Only game officials and opposing coaches can nominate teams for the awards. Dr. Lusi also reported that Portsmouth High School Junior Bethany Reise has been named to the Providence Journal's All State gymnastics team for the 2008-09 Winter Sports Season. Varsity Ice Hockey Senior Matt Chappell was recently recognized as the Portsmouth High School recipient of the Hobey Baker Award for the 2008-09 season. The Hobey Baker Award is given to an ice hockey player at each Rhode Island High School that best exemplifies the values of character, sportsmanship, leadership, spirit, unselfishness, and coachability, on their respective teams. Portsmouth High School Senior Griffin Fauntleroy signed a National Letter of Intent to attend and play baseball at Sacred Heart University in the fall. Dr. Lusi congratulated Denise Dvorak, our Literacy Coordinator, for being invited to serve on the Department of Education's Literacy Education Leadership Council. Mrs. Dvorak was selected for her leadership and knowledge in literacy education. She is the third staff member to be chosen to serve on the Department of Education's content leadership councils. Dr. Lusi acknowledged that Mrs. Jamie Caromile submitted a letter confirming that she will be retiring at the end of this school year. She has served Portsmouth for more than 30 years in the area of music, and Dr. Lusi thanked her for her service. She announced that notification of final retirement decisions are due by May 4<sup>th</sup>.

a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain congratulated Denise Dvorak for being selected to participate on the Department of Education's Literacy Team. Also on committees at the Department of Education are Jeffrey Schoonover, who is on the Science Committee, and Gail Darmody, who is on the Technology Committee. Mrs. Jermain reported that as part of our "Going Green" initiative, Kindergarten registration was done online and is now complete. The Kindergarten screening is being done next week, and documents will be done online and will be paperless. Mrs. Jermain praised our IT staff for all of their help with the process. She stated that we're continuing to work on our systems in the district to become more efficient and reduce costs. She announced that Portsmouth Middle School will soon have SALT visit. She also announced that the Lab Classroom initiative has been very successful, and classrooms in math were opened at Portsmouth Middle School today.

b) **Finance and Operations:** Ms. Tague gave her report under the Business Agenda.

c) **High School Liaison:** Absent.

### 3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 24, 2009. So voted 6-0.

4. **SPOTLIGHT**

- a) **Hathaway Student.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to commend Caleb Hilyard for community service and leadership at Hathaway School. So voted 6-0.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a) **Teacher Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee accepts the resignation of Lori A. Camara from the position of Social Studies Coordinator at Portsmouth Middle School, effective the last day of the 2008-09 school year."
- b) **Rescission of Teacher Non-Renewal/Termination.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the School Committee rescinds the non-renewal/termination of Teacher 8 and recalls Teacher 8 to their current position."
- c) **Request for Medical Leave of Absence.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee approves the request of Teacher #1-4/21/09, for Family and Medical Leave in accordance with the backup information."

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. So voted 6-0.

6. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

- a) **Report on February and March Financials.** Ms. Tague reported on revenues and expenditures as of March 31, 2009. On the Revenue side, assuming no additional changes occur in enrollments, the revised projection for tuition from Little Compton would be \$908,096; which would result in a revenue shortfall of \$83,078. Regarding Medicaid, the receipts have obtained the budget target of \$348,000 for the current fiscal year. The balance available for further transfer is \$168,907. Regarding State Aid, the following table represents the revised figures resulting from the passage of the supplemental budget:

FISCAL YEAR 2009	Aid		
	Enacted	Supplemental	Variance
GENERAL STATE AID	\$5,366,738	\$4,163,305	(\$1,203,433)
STATE AID-VOCATIONAL	\$11,500	\$11,500	\$0
STATE AID-GROUP HOME AID	\$570,000	\$615,000	\$45,000
STATE AID - PERMANENT	\$131,987	\$55,007	(\$76,980)
FEDERAL STABILIZATION	\$0	\$427,374	\$427,374
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED AID	\$6,080,225	\$5,272,186	(\$808,039)
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$111,969	\$0	(\$111,969)
TOTAL RESTRICTED/UNRESTRICTED AID			
REDUCTIONS	\$6,192,194	\$5,272,186	(\$920,008)
PENSION EXPENDITURE OFFSET			\$734,195
TOTAL NET AID REDUCTION			(\$185,813)

Ms. Tague reported that the Impact Aid revenue exceeds the budget by \$238,908. The original budget amount is calculated by the formula in place once the federal budget is approved. Since then, several appropriations from prior years have been passed by congress. Additionally, we received a 1-time distribution for the demolition of the Melville military quarters. This payment is to assist the district with any impact that may occur in the year in which the housing was demolished. Ms. Tague stated that in further managing the budget, we have asked all building level administrators to expend only 80 percent of appropriations. The anticipated savings that could result is \$174,000 in unexpended appropriations. In addition, we have discontinued professional development for the remainder of the fiscal year.

On the Expenditure side, in Salaries & Benefits, the substitute salary account is projected to be approximately \$192,000 over the \$283,000 budgeted. This is primarily due to nine long-term substitutes that are covering nine teaching positions. Two of the positions are for vacancies, and the other seven are because of maternity and illness. Even with this budget variance, we are still projecting overall positive budget variances of approximately \$100,000. We anticipate one more maternity absence in May. In addition, most teachers do not utilize their personal time until the last quarter of the school year. While some of this has been factored into my projection, this positive variance could well be gone depending on the length of time the absences require and the amount of personal time utilized by each teacher. Concerning benefits, an analysis of the year-to-date actual for healthcare projected for the remainder of the year and based upon the past seven months claims could result in a negative variance of approximately \$81,000. This variance could be because of several individuals that have changed from the single plan to family plans due to qualifying events or the large loss claims we experienced in the prior months. Ms. Tague will continue to analyze and inform the committee. We anticipate the dental care to be over budget by \$10,000 for the same reason. This negative variance will be more than offset by \$106,000 declared surplus from the FY'08 GHGRI fund balance. Certified retirement as projected for the end of the year is anticipated being close to budget or slightly under budget by approximately \$20,000. This would assume a wash for the anticipated reduction in State Aid. FICA's current year-end projections are anticipated to come in approximately \$35,000 under budget; however, this could change when substitutes are needed to cover the end of the year absences. Regarding Utilities, Ms. Tague reported that while the cost of gasoline prices has gone down since last August, Portsmouth did participate in the EBEC bid for No. 2 fuel oil. This bid locked us in for the year at a price per gallon of \$3.45 until June 30, 2009. Generally, we do not go out to bid until July; however, since oil prices are trending upward, we are currently preparing the request for bid for award in May. Ms. Tague reported that the Electricity budget of \$291,754 is 107 percent spent with three months remaining. This variance is attributable to a reduction of \$128,000 for the anticipated savings from the Wind Turbine project. It was anticipated the turbine would be functioning much sooner. The estimated savings projected for the remainder of the fiscal year is approximately \$128,000. The Town made a payment for debt service and

miscellaneous expenses of \$215,000. The savings generated for the remainder of the year will be applied to the Enterprise Fund to offset the debt service payment. We anticipate the budget variance of \$128,000 to be offset by other positive budget variances.

In the Other Major Expenses category, Ms. Tague reported that the approved budget by the Regional Special Education Board is \$250,000 over the original budget. However, the savings in out-of-district placements of approximately \$300,000 will more than offset this variance. This variance is down from the last report because of two additional in-district tuitions and one residential out-of-district placement. In the Regional Vocational category, we have received the first quarter bill for the regional vocational school of \$25,673. Based upon enrollments and projected out for the remainder of the fiscal year, our regional bill for the year would be \$102,692. We had budgeted \$150,000 and, therefore, could see a savings of \$47,308. In the area of Transportation, the budget is currently running at 71.01 percent. Based on the average monthly charge and school days remaining, we are not anticipating any surplus variance. The Grounds Maintenance account is currently over budget by \$17,742, as a result of snow removal costs this past winter.

Ms. Tague reported that the budget for this fiscal year appears to be within attainable levels, even with the recent state aid cuts, as we have taken a proactive approach by holding the line on “discretionary spending.” While this is good news in a sense, the Committee and the public need to understand that holding this line means that we are unable to fully fund areas that have been School Committee priorities – particularly professional development and school-based budgets for items such as instructional materials.

- b) **Ratification of Contract Award for Gas.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to ratify the contract award for gas to Direct Energy as presented. So voted 6-0.
- c) **Bid Award – Food Service Contract.** A motion was made by Ms. Wedge and seconded by Mrs. Levesque to award the contract for food service to Chartwells for the period FY’10 through FY’14 as presented. So voted 6-0.

## 7. SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA

- a) **Facilities.** Mr. Buddemeyer stated that the next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 5:30 PM at the PHS Library, unless he gets called away on business.
- b) **Finance.** Nothing to report.

c) **Health and Wellness.** Nothing to report.

d) **Policy.** Nothing to report.

A motion was made by Ms. Wedge seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn the meeting. So voted.  
The Public Session adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield  
Recording Secretary for:

Marge Levesque, Clerk